

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1]

1. A dispenser comprising:

a frame comprising spaced-apart members, the frame having a lower forward end in a forward direction of the frame and a lower rearward end in an oppositely-disposed rearward direction of the frame, each of the spaced-apart members having a lower edge;

a roll of an adhesive tape rotatably mounted between the spaced-apart members so that the tape is dispensed from the roll and travels from the forward end to the rearward end of the frame, the tape having symbols and numerical information along a length thereof;

lateral guides pivotably attached to the space-apart members of the frame, each of the lateral guides being attached so that a portion thereof is pivotable to a position below the lower edge of its respective spaced-apart member;

a resilient member disposed between the lower edges of the spaced-apart members and applying a downward pressure on the tape traveling from the forward end to the rearward end of the frame;

means for severing the tape at the rearward end of the frame; and

a handle attached to the frame for pushing the frame in the forward direction.

[Claim 2] 2. The dispenser according to claim 1, further comprising a window defined in at least one of the spaced-apart members through which the roll of adhesive tape can be viewed for assessing how much of the tape remains on the roll.

[Claim 3] 3. The dispenser according to claim 1, wherein each of the lateral guides is pivotably attached to a forward end thereof to its respective space-apart member and the portion that is pivotable

to a position below the lower edge of its respective spaced-apart member is a rearward end thereof.

[Claim 4] 4. The dispenser according to claim 3, wherein the rearward end of each of the lateral guides is attached to its respective space-apart member with means for enabling the rearward end of the lateral guide to be raised and lowered relative to the lower edge of its respective spaced-apart member.

[Claim 5] 5. The dispenser according to claim 4, further comprising means for securing the rearward ends of the lateral guides with respect to their respective spaced-apart members.

[Claim 6] 6. The dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the tape is formed of a flexible nonmetallic material that is shrink-resistant, stretch-resistant, and weather-resistant.

[Claim 7] 7. The dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the handle comprises means for attaching an extension thereto.

[Claim 8] 8. The dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the spaced-apart frame members are parallel and spaced apart a distance of about three inches and the tape is about three inches wide.

[Claim 9] 9. The dispenser according to claim 8, further comprising means for slitting the tape lengthwise to form a pair of tape portions of approximately equal width as the tape travels from the forward end to the rearward end of the frame.

[Claim 10] 10. The dispenser according to claim 9, wherein the tape has perforations along the length thereof and the slitting means slits the tape along the perforations.

[Claim 11] 11. The dispenser according to claim 9, wherein the slitting means comprises a blade coupled to the resilient member and mounted so as to be selectively engaged and disengaged with the tape.

[Claim 12] 12. The dispenser according to claim 9, wherein each of the tape portions has symbols and the numerical information along the length thereof.

[Claim 13] 13. The dispenser according to claim 12, wherein the symbols and the numerical information of each of the tape portions locate positions of wall studs on sixteen-inch centers when the tape portions are applied to floor and ceiling plates.

[Claim 14] 14. The dispenser according to claim 13, wherein the numerical information of each of the tape portions comprises first and second series of increments, increments of the first series of increments are spaced one inch apart and repeat every twelve inches along the length of the tape, increments of the second series of increments are spaced one foot apart and repeat every twelve feet along the length of the tape.

[Claim 15] 15. The dispenser according to claim 13, wherein the symbols are spaced about sixteen inches apart to position the wall studs on sixteen-inch centers and each of the symbols has a

length of about 1.5 inches in a direction along the length of the tape to coincide with abutting widths of the wall studs.

[Claim 16] 16. The dispenser according to claim 13, wherein the symbols have identical rectangular shapes.

[Claim 17] 17. The dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the spaced-apart frame members are parallel and spaced apart a distance of about 1.5 inches and the tape is about 1.5 inches wide.

[Claim 18] 18. The dispenser according to claim 17, wherein the symbols and the numerical information of the tape locate positions of floor joists, ceiling joists, and common roof rafters on sixteen-inch centers when the tape is applied to collar beams, ceiling plates, and ridge beams, respectively.

[Claim 19] 19. The dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the numerical information comprises first and second series of increments, increments of the first series of increments are spaced one inch apart and repeat every twelve inches along the length of the tape, increments of the second series of increments are spaced one foot apart and repeat every twelve feet along the length of the tape.

[Claim 20] 20. The dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the symbols are spaced about sixteen inches apart to position the floor joists, ceiling joists, and common roof rafters on sixteen-inch centers and each of the symbols has a length of about 1.5 inches in a direction along the length of the tape to coincide with abutting widths of the floor joists, ceiling joists, and common roof rafters.

[Claim 21] 21. The dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the symbols have identical rectangular shapes.

[Claim 22] 22. The dispenser according to claim 17, wherein the symbols and the numerical information of the tape locate positions of jack rafters on sixteen-inch centers when the tape is applied to hip and valley rafters.

[Claim 23] 23. The dispenser according to claim 22, wherein the numerical information consists of a roof pitch value.

[Claim 24] 24. The dispenser according to claim 23, wherein the symbols are spaced apart along the length of the tape on the basis of the roof pitch value to position the jack rafters on sixteen-inch centers and each of the symbols has a length in a direction along the length of the tape on the basis of the roof pitch value to coincide with abutting widths of the jack rafters.

[Claim 25] 25. The dispenser according to claim 22, wherein the symbols have identical shapes comprising two identical triangles contacting each other at a single corner and separated from each other by a line of symmetry.

[Claim 26] 26. The dispenser according to claim 17, wherein the symbols and the numerical information of the tape locate positions of jack studs on sixteen-inch centers when the tape is applied to a gable end rafter.

[Claim 27] 27. The dispenser according to claim x26, wherein the numerical information consists of a roof pitch value.

[Claim 28] 28. The dispenser according to claim 27, wherein the symbols are spaced apart along the length of the tape on the basis of the roof pitch value to position the jack studs on sixteen-inch centers and each of the symbols has a length in a direction along the length of the tape on the basis of the roof pitch value to coincide with abutting widths of the jack studs.

[Claim 29] 29. The dispenser according to claim 28, wherein the symbols have identical shapes comprising two identical parallelograms contacting each other at a single corner and separated from each other by a line of symmetry.

[Claim 30] 30. The dispenser according to claim 29, wherein the parallelograms define an angle therebetween that is substantially equal to the roof pitch value.

[Claim 31] 31. A method of positioning and orienting a first structural member of a building roof to a second structural member of the roof so as to form a joint between the first and second roof structural members corresponding to a pitch angle of the roof, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a tape to a surface of the second structural member, the tape having regularly spaced-apart non-rectangular symbols thereon, each of the symbols having a dimension associated with the pitch angle of the roof;

abutting an end of the first structural member against the surface of the second structural member so that the end of the first structural member coincides with one of the symbols on the tape; and then

securing the first structural member to the second structural member.